

IN THE CLAIMS

1-6 (Canceled)

7. (Previously presented) The implant assembly of claim 24 wherein at least one of the bone plate and the fastener are formed of a biodegradable material.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently amended) The implant assembly of claim 24 wherein the fastener is formed of a polymeric material ~~comprising~~ from the group consisting essentially of homopolymers, co-polymers, and oligomers of: polyhydroxy acids, polyesters, polyorthoesters, polyanhydrides, polydioxanone, polydioxanediones, polyesteramides, polyaminoacids, polyamides, polycarbonates, polylactide, polyglycolide, tyrosine-derived polycarbonate, polyanhydride, polyorthoester, polyphosphazene, polyethylene, polyester, polyvinyl alcohol, polyacrylonitrile, polyamide, polytetrafluorethylene, poly-paraphenylene terephthalamide, polyaryletherketones, polyetherketones, cellulose, carbon fiber reinforced composite, and mixtures thereof.

10. (Currently amended) The implant assembly of claim 24 wherein at least one of the fastener and the bone plate are formed of a polymer comprising monomeric repeating units derived from the group consisting essentially of d-lactic acid, l-lactic acid, glycolic acid, caprolactone, hydroxy buteric acid, hydroxy valeric acid, and mixtures thereof.

11-12. (Canceled)

13. (Previously presented) The implant assembly of claim 24 wherein the opening is an elongate opening.

14. (Previously presented) The implant of claim 24 comprising a plurality of openings.

15-23. (Canceled)

24. (Original) An implant assembly comprising:

a bone plate having at least one opening extending therethrough, and

a fastener received within said opening and having a proximal head, a distal bone-engaging portion, and a shaft therebetween, wherein at least one of the fastener and the bone plate include an adhesive to fixedly interengage the fastener to the bone plate.

25. (Original) The implant assembly of claim 24 wherein at least one of the bone plate and the fastener includes a pressure sensitive adhesive.

26. (Currently amended) The implant assembly of claim 24 wherein the adhesive is selected from the group consisting essentially of: epoxies, acrylates, cyanoacrylates, polyesters, polyolefins, polyurethanes, silicone adhesives, and mixtures thereof.

27. (Original) The implant assembly of claim 24 wherein the adhesive is a two-part adhesive and wherein a first part of the adhesive is provided on the bone plate and a second part of the adhesive is provided on the fastener, whereby contact of the bone plate with the fastener combines the first part and the second part of the adhesive.

28. (Original) The implant assembly of claim 24 wherein the bone plate is flexible to allow articulation of adjacent bone structures.

29. (Original) The implant assembly of claim 24 wherein the bone plate is configured to connect adjacent vertebrae bodies.

30-33. (Canceled)

34. (Previously presented) A method of fixedly securing a fastener to a bone plate, said method comprising:

surgically preparing bone tissue in need of repair for receipt of a bone plate;

placing a bone plate proximal to said bone tissue in need of repair, said bone plate having at least one opening therethrough; and

inserting a bone screw through the at least one opening and into the bone tissue, wherein at least one of the fastener and the bone plate include an adhesive to fixedly secure the fastener to the bone plate.

35. (Original) The method of claim 34 wherein the adhesive is a pressure-sensitive adhesive.

36. (Original) The method of claim 34 wherein the adhesive is selected from the group consisting essentially of: epoxies, acrylates, cyanoacrylates, polyesters, polyolefins, polyurethanes, silicones, and mixtures thereof.

37. (Original) The method of claim 34 wherein said inserting comprises deforming a portion of the bone plate or the fastener with a solvent.

38. (Original) The method of claim 34 comprising applying said adhesive to the fastener.

39. (Previously presented) The method of claim 34 comprising applying said adhesive to the bone plate.

40. (Currently amended) An orthopedic implant assembly comprising:

a bone plate comprising at least one opening therethrough; and

a fastener formed of a non metallic material and comprising a head and an opposite tissue engaging portion, wherein said fastener is received through the at least one opening and adhesively bonded to the bone plate.

41. (Previously presented) The implant assembly of claim 40 wherein the bone plate comprises a metallic material.

42. (Previously presented) The implant assembly of claim 40 wherein at least one of the bone plate and the fastener includes a pressure sensitive adhesive.

43. (Currently amended) The implant assembly of claim 42 wherein the adhesive is selected from the group consisting essentially of: epoxies, acrylates, cyanoacrylates, polyesters, polyolefins, polyurethanes, silicone adhesives, and mixtures thereof.

44. (Previously presented) The implant assembly of claim 40 wherein the adhesive is a two-part adhesive and wherein a first part of the adhesive is provided on the bone plate and a second part of the adhesive is provided on the fastener, whereby contact of the bone plate with the fastener combines the first part and the second part of the adhesive.

45. (Cancelled)

46. (Previously presented) The implant assembly of claim 40 wherein the bone plate comprises a first polymeric material.

47. (Previously presented) The implant assembly of claim 46 wherein the fastener comprises a second polymeric material that is intermixed with the first polymeric material of the bone plate.

48. (Previously presented) The implant assembly of claim 46 wherein the bone plate is flexible to allow articulation of adjacent bone structures.

49. (Previously presented) The implant assembly of claim 40 wherein the bone plate is configured to connect to adjacent vertebrae bodies.

50. (Previously presented) The implant assembly of claim 40 wherein the bone plate comprises a composite material.

51. (New) An orthopedic implant assembly comprising:

a bone plate comprising at least one opening therethrough; and

a fastener formed of a non metallic material and comprising a head and an opposite tissue engaging portion, wherein said fastener is received through the at least one opening and bonded to the bone plate, wherein the fastener is solvent bonded to the bone plate.

52. (New) The implant assembly of claim 51 wherein the bone plate comprises a first polymeric material, and wherein the fastener comprises a second polymeric material that is intermixed with the first polymeric material of the bone plate.

53. (New) An implant assembly comprising:

a bone plate having at least one opening extending therethrough;

a fastener received within said opening and having a proximal head, a distal bone-engaging portion, and a shaft therebetween; and

an adhesive applied to at least one of the fastener and the bone plate, wherein said adhesive acts to fixedly attach said fastener to said bone plate.

54. (New) The implant assembly of claim 53, wherein said adhesive does not deform either of said fastener and said bone plate.

55. (New) The implant assembly of claim 53, wherein said attachment occurs without applying heat sufficient to deform a portion of either of said fastener and said bone plate.

56. (New) The implant assembly of claim 53, wherein said adhesive has a first adhesive part applied to said plate and a second adhesive part applied to said fastener.

57. (New) The implant assembly of claim 56, wherein said first and second adhesive parts are intermixed on bringing said plate and said fastener together.